

California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE July/August 2001

RISK EVALUATION AND POLICY OPTIONS DOCUMENTS IN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On July 13, 2001, the California Department of Health Services released its 516-page risk evaluation and its 9-page policy options document for public comment. Comments will be accepted until noon, September 10, 2001.

The Science Advisory Panel (SAP) convened in a public meeting on September 7, 2001, to discuss the document among themselves before submitting comments. Public workshops were held in Sacramento, Los Angeles, and by telephone on August 16, 21, & 22, 2001. Apart from representatives from stakeholder groups, few attended these meetings.

The EMF staff will review public comments in September and estimate the time needed for technical revision and response to public comments.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Written comments on The Risk Evaluation and the Policy Integration Drafts are due by noon, September 10, 2001. Send them to Mr. Jack Collins, EMF Program, 1515 Clay St, Suite 1700, Oakland, CA 94612. You also may fax or e-mail your comments: (510) 622-4505 or JCollins@dhs.ca.gov.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has completed the final draft of the Monograph on Static and Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (Volume 80 of the IARC Monographs series). The document is now undergoing editorial review and will be published in its final form in the first quarter of 2002. The conclusion chapter is available on the IARC Web site (www.iarc.fr).

MILESTONE

- The Risk Evaluation and the Policy Integration have been released for public comment.

RESEARCH UNIT UPDATES

Projects

Risk Evaluation: The EMF Risk Evaluation (Public Comment Draft #3) has been released for public comment.

Policy Integration: A draft of the Policy Options Summary document has been released for public comment.

Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis: The final report has been delivered. This project is completed.

School Policy Analysis Project: Following further discussion between Keith Florig and EMF Staff, final revisions are being carried out.

EMF Miscarriage Studies: The DHS EMF miscarriage study has been accepted for publication and will appear in the journal "Epidemiology" in January 2002, as a companion paper to the Kaiser study.

EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT UPDATES

As of May 31, 2001, the California EMF Program no longer answers individual questions from members of the public. Instead, we hope that people with questions about EMF and health will take advantage of the fact sheets and other information that are available on our Web site, which is currently at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehib/emf>. Future fact sheets (including one answering the questions that we receive most frequently: EMF in residential environments) will be posted on our site as they become available. People who do not have Internet access can request fact sheets on EMF by calling the Program at (510) 622-4430 and leaving a voicemail message, or by faxing their requests to the Program at (510) 622-4505.

Web Site: The EMF Program Web site has moved. It is now included on the DHS server as part of the Environment Health Investigation Branch (EHIB) web page. The look and organization for the page remains the same, but in the near future we will have to reorganize the page to conform to the Government standard currently under development. The new address is <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehib/emf>. We will be closing down the old DNAI site in the next few months, but through December the old DNAI site will either forward or direct you to the new location.

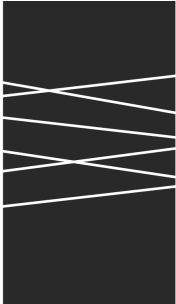
Fact Sheet: The Fact Sheet, *EMF in Schools* has been approved by the California Department of Health Services leadership and is currently available by calling our information line at (510) 622-4430. It will soon be available on the web as well. *Frequently Asked Questions about EMF in Residences* is still being reviewed by the leadership.

Non-Technical Summaries: The non-technical summary for the *School Exposure Assessment* has been approved by the DHS director's office and will be available on the web by mid-September. The Summary of the *Risk Evaluation Guidelines* is still being reviewed.

EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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